

## Message Text

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12

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: APRIL 19 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. NYT' S BROWNE IN PP REPORTS DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS

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EXPELLED IN TAM FOR AGREEING TO JOIN LON NOL GOVERNMENT, AND DOUC RASY FOR ACCEPTING KHMER LONDON AMBASSADORSHIP. CHAU SAU, WHO REJECTED CABINET POST, NOW LEADS PARTY. SIRIK MATAK BELIEVED READY TO JOIN GOVERNMENT. IN RADIO BROADCAST, LON NOL DENOUNCES " VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST" INVADERS AND BLAMES " CERTAIN SEGMENT OF THE NATIONAL AND FOREIGN PRESS" FOR LEADING PEOPLE TO BELIEVE KHMER RESISTANCE TO INVADERS WOULD COLLAPSE. SAYS PROJECTED HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL WILL HELP REINFORCE NATIONAL SOLIDARITY. ACCORDING BROWNE, KHMER POLITICIANS DOUBT VIABILITY OF COUNCIL BUT DON' T WANT TO PREJUDGE IT. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WILL NOT CHANGE POOR PROSPECTS FOR END TO CONFLICT.

2. SUN ALSO REPORTS EXPULSION OF IN TAM FOR DECISION TO COLLABORATE WITH LON NOL. PARTY SPOKESMAN SAYS PARTY UON' T COOPERATE WITH LON NOL UNLESS " REALLY FREE ELECTIONS" ARE HELD. SUN ALSO REPORTS FALL OF KEP AND CONTINUED ATTACKS AGAINST TAKEO AND TRAM KHNR. AP SAIGON REPORTS RADIO HANOI CALLS ON LON NOL TO STEP DOWN, SAYING CABINET SHUFFLE ONLY DESIGNED, UNDER US

PRESSURE, TO SETTLE INTERNAL CONFLICTS OF DETERIORATING LON NOL GOVERNMENT. BROADCAST REPORTEDLY INDICATED INSURGENTS WOULD CONTINUE MILITARY EFFORTS TO TOPPLE GKR. CSM' S SOUTHERLAND REPORTS APATHETIC REACTION IN PP TO SHAKEUP, WITH EARLY INDICATIONS IT DOESN' T SIGNAL ANY REAL WILLINGNESS BY LON NOL TO SHARE POWER. FRIENDS OF SIRIK MATAK SAY HE NOT INTERESTED IN PROJECTED 11-MAN COUNCIL.

3. GREENWAY IN PP REPORTS IN TAM AND SIRIK MATAK REJECT COUNCIL AND PROPOSE INSTEAD FOUR- MAN " ORGAN OF DECISION." GROUP UOULD CONSIST OF LON NOL, IN TAM, SIRIK MATAK, AND CHENG HENG. LON NOL SAID TO HAVE AGREED TO SMALLER GROUP BUT NOT ITS COMPOSITION. ACCORDING GREENWAY, IN TAM AND SIRIK MATAK IN HOUR- LONG MEETING WITH LON NOL PROPOSED TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. PP RADIO ANNOUNCES LON NON SPECIAL MISSION TO US WHICH MAY BE OF " LONG DURATION." NATURE OF MISSION NOT DISCLOSED ( UP).

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4. IN LETTER TO SENATORS, CHURCH AND CASE URGE

PASSAGE OF BILL TO STOP BOMBING LAOS AND CAMBODIA  
AND REQUIRE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF AID TO NVN.  
LETTER SAYS BILL WOULDN' T PREJUDGE US INTERVENTION  
IF VN AGREEMENT COMPLETELY BREAKS DOWN - ONLY REQUIRE  
CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT. MANSFIELD SAYS PRESIDENT  
MAY BE " INVITING THE BREAKDOWN OF THE FRAGILE CEASE-  
FIRE" BY " DEEPENING INVOLVEMENT IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OF CAMBODIA AND WHAT MAY WELL BE A COLLAPSING GOVERNMENT...  
IF LAND INVASIONS FROM OUTSIDE CAMBODIA DO MATERIALIZE...  
AND THEY RECEIVE OUR AERIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT, WE WILL  
RUN THE RISK OF A FULL RECRUDESCENCE OF THE INDOCHINA  
CONFLICT WHICH MAY WELL SPREAD THROUGHOUT SOUTHEAST ASIA.."

5. POST' S GETLER REPORTS US SOURCES SAY HANOI HAS  
WITHDRAWN ONE NVA DIVISION FROM NORTHERN SVN AND MAY  
BE IN PROCESS OF WITHDRAWING TWO OTHERS. US OFFICIALS  
PUZZLED, BUT SAY TOO EARLY TO ASSESS SIGNIFICANCE.  
IF ALL THREE UNITS WITHDRAW, THIS WOULD INVOLVE APPROXI-  
MATELY 15,000 MEN, PROBABLY NET NVA REDUCTION IN SVN  
SINCE THERE HAS BEEN SLOWING DOWN OF INFILTRATION IN  
RECENT WEEKS. WHILE WITHDRAWAL MIGHT HAVE SOME DIPLOMATIC  
SIGNIFICANCE, WOULD BE MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT ONLY IF  
DIVISIONS WERE TO WITHDRAW FAR NORTH OF DMZ.

6. NYT REPORTS DOS OFFICIALS SAY US, IN EXPRESSION  
OF IRRITATION OVER POLAND' S PERFORMANCE IN ICCS,  
HAS TOLD POLAND TO POSTPONE VISIT OF TWO SENIOR  
SCIENCE OFFICIALS. PRIVATELY, SOME POLISH AND

HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS SAY THEY BEING REBUKED WITHOUT  
JUSTIFICATION BECAUSE US KNEW IN ADVANCE THEY WOULD  
NOT TAKE ACTIONS OPPOSED BY THEIR NVN ALLIES.

7. REUTER REPORTS HEAVIER FIGHTING EXPECTED ALONG  
MEKONG INSIDE SVN AS ARVN PREPARES FINAL PUSH TO  
CLEAR RIVER OF COMMUNIST FORCES ENDANGERING CONVOYS  
TO PP. EMPTY BARGE CONVOY RETURNS UNSCATHED. ARVN  
COMMANDER DESCRIBES FIGHTING IN AREA AS " VERY HEAVY"  
AND INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SAY TWO COMMUNIST BATTALIONS  
HAVE CROSSED INTO SVN FROM CAMBODIA ( NYT, SUN).

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8. OPPOSITION DEPUTY IN LONDON ACCUSES GVN OF HOLDING  
1500 POLITICAL PRISONERS, INCLUDING PREGNANT WOMEN,  
ON CON SON ( NYT). INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE' S  
DUKE SAYS NVN TURNED DOWN HIS OFFER TRAVEL TO HANOI  
TO DISCUSS COMMITTEE' S OFFER OF AID.

9. NO LAOS RAIDS YESTERDAY, BUT CINCPAC SAYS CAMBODIA RAIDS CONTINUE ( SUN). ACCORDING WP, RLG' S SISOUK NA CHAMPASSAK SAYS " NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE LEARNED A LESSON." US OFFICIALS INDICATE RECENT AIR RAIDS MAY HAVE BROKEN UP COMMUNIST ATTACKS, BUT NO EVIDENCE COMMUNISTS HAVE LOST GROUND. REUTER REPORTS RLG OFFICIAL SAYS US RAIDS WILL CONTINUE IF PL- NVA CONTINUE OFFENSIVE IN NE LAOS.

10. CSM' S SAVILLE DAVIS IS INTRIGUED BY BEHAVIOR OF CROWD TOWARD KING AT LUANG PRABANG NATIONAL DAY PARADE, NOTING STRIKING LACK OF SECURITY CONCERN AS " LONG-HAIRED HIPPIE" APPROACHES KING; ALSO, UTTER, APPARENTLY RESPECTFUL, SILENCE OF PREVIOUSLY BUBBLING CROWD AS KING PASSED BY. ACCORDING DAVIS, " IT WAS ALL A STIRRING REMINDER THAT THIS WAS A COUNTRY WITH A HISTORY AND A CULTURE FAR TOO LITTLE UNDERSTOOD OR APPRECIATED BY THE WESTERNERS WHO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO INFLUENCE ITS DESTINY."

11. ANTHONY LEWIS ( NYT), IN LONDON, SEES NO LEGAL JUSTIFICATION FOR BOMBING CAMBODIA. NOTES THAT EVEN THE ECONOMIST, LONG FAITHFUL SUPPORTER OF US IN INDOCHINA, HAS SAID THAT IN CAMBODIA PRESIDENT " APPEARS TO BE SHORT OF A LEGAL OR CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTIFICATION FOR USING FORCE." LEWIS CALLS AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN' S REPORTED JUSTIFICATION ( PRESIDENT' S RE- ELECTION) " COARSE CYNICISM."

12. CHARLES YOST ( CSM) PROPOSES THAT BEST WAY TO STOP NVN INTERVENTION IN CAMBODIA AND LAOS IS TO LET INDIGENOUS FACTIONS COME TO ACCOMMODATION BY POLITICAL OR MILITARY MEANS. ONCE ACCOMMODATION, NO MATTER HOW MESSY AND UNSATISFACTORY, TRADITIONAL SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PATTERNS WILL REASSERT THEMSELVES, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND HANOI' S INFLUENCE WILL TEND TO WITHER AWAY BECAUSE LAOTIANS AND CAMBODIANS DETEST VIETNAMESE. SIHANOUK' S RECENT VISIT HOME AND SUBSEQUENT RECEPTION IN HANOI AND PEKING SUGGEST THAT HE WILL BE THEIR CHOSEN INSTRUMENT. YET, HIS RECORD OF NATIONALISM, WILINESS, AND FLEXIBILITY SUGGESTS THAT HE WILL EXTRICATE HIMSELF RATHER PROMPTLY FROM ANY COILS THAT MAY INITIALLY ENVELOP HIM.

13. STAR-NEWS' SHERMAN SAYS PRESIDENT HAS SIGNALLED HANOI HE IS DEADLY SERIOUS ABOUT PREVENTING LAOS AND CAMBODIA BECOMING BASES FOR INVASION OF SVN. HE HAS NOW GIVEN HANOI THREE WARNINGS AGAINST "LIGHTLY DISREGARDING" CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATING PARIS AGREEMENT, AND US OFFICIALS MAINTAIN THAT NIXON HAS HAD TO SHOW HIS "WILL" TO PUNISH VIOLATIONS WITHOUT DESTROYING BASIC AGREEMENTS. MEANWHILE, US OFFICIALS EXPECT LON NOL, AT AMERICAN URGING, TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY WITH AIM OF REVITALIZING DEMORALIZED FANK. IF SOME SEMBLANCE OF COMPETENCE AND ENDURANCE CAN BE BUILT IN PP, ARGUMENT GOES, HANOI MAY DECIDE TIME HAS COME FOR GENUINE BARGAINING FOR C- F IN AN INDEPENDENT CAMBODIA. CAMBODIAN BOMBING SEEN AS WINNING TIME FOR NEGOTIATION PROCESS AS WELL AS TO GUARANTEE SURVIVAL OF LON NOL GOVERNMENT.  
PORTER

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